

CLAIMS

1. A vehicle steering wheel (1) comprising a rim (2), a signal cap (3) and two upper and two lower spokes (4, 5) extending between the rim (2) and the signal cap (3), the upper spokes (4) extending along the horizontal symmetry axis (H-H) of the steering wheel (1) towards its centre, **characterized in** that the two lower spokes (5) are graspable by a normal man's hand, that the lower spokes (5) extend from positions around the rim (2) so that points P₁, P₂ that are in line with the upper edge of the respective lower spokes (5) on the outer surface of the rim are located between 30° and 60° below the horizontal symmetry axis (H-H) on either side of the vertical symmetry axis (V-V) of the steering wheel (1), and that the upper edge of the lower spokes (5), which is in line with the respective points P₁, P₂ form an angle (β) of between 62° and 82° with the vertical symmetry axis (V-V) of the steering wheel (1) and in that a multifunctional switch module (6) with thumb-operated control buttons (7) for remote actuation of specific vehicle functions is located symmetrically between the two lower spokes (5) beneath the signal cap (3), wherein the driver can operate the module while grasping the lower spokes.
2. The steering wheel according to claim 1, **characterized in** that the two points P₁, P₂ are situated 40° below the horizontal symmetry axis (H-H) on either side of the vertical symmetry axis (V-V) of the steering wheel (1).
3. The steering wheel according to claim 1 or 2, **characterized in** that the angle (β) from the vertical symmetry axis (V-V) of the steering wheel to the respective points P₁, P₂ (1) are between 67° and 77°.
4. The steering wheel according to claim 3, **characterized in** that the angle (β) is 72°.

5. The steering wheel according to any of claims 1 - 4, **characterized in** that the lower spokes (5) are separated from the upper spokes (4) by spaces (8) for receiving a driver's elbows.
- 5 6. The steering wheel according to any of claims 1 - 5, **characterized in** that the width X of the graspable part of upper edge of the lower spokes is between 65 mm and 105 mm.
7. The steering wheel according to claim 6, **characterized in** that the width X of the graspable part of upper edge of the lower spokes is approximately 85 mm.